

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic musical instrument comprising:
tempo-setting means for setting a tempo;
input means for inputting musical tones;
musical tone storage means for storing sequentially at a specified sampling period the musical tones that have been input by the input means;
selectable tempo setting means for selectively changing and setting a tempo of successive time instances for a sequence of stored musical tones, each time instance having a time instance number;
time information storage means for storing, ~~in conformance with a timing that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo-setting means,~~ time information that defines a plurality of succeeding times after a starting time, wherein each of said times after the starting time is associated with a time instance number for the sequence of musical tones stored in the musical tone storage means; and
readout start means for readout of the musical tones stored in the musical tone storage means based on the time information stored in the time information storage means.
2. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the readout start means includes
storage address acquisition means for acquiring a storage address that corresponds to the time information of the musical tones based on the time information stored in the time information storage means and the sampling period, wherein
the readout of the musical tones that have been stored in the musical tone storage means is started based on the storage address acquired by the storage address acquisition means.

3. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 2, further comprising instruction means for instructing acquisition of the storage address by the storage address acquisition means, and

wherein the storage address acquisition means acquires the storage address that corresponds to the time information for the musical tones when the instruction means instructs acquisition of the storage address based on instruction time information acquired in conformance with a timing of the instruction, the storage address that corresponds to the instruction time information, the time information stored in the time information storage means, and the sampling period.

4. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 2 , further comprising a saving means for saving, in units based on the storage address acquired by the storage address acquisition means, the musical tones that are stored in the musical tone storage means.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic musical instrument comprising:
~~tempo setting means for setting a tempo;~~
input means for inputting musical tones;
musical tone storage means for sequentially storing at a specified sampling period the musical tones that have been input by the input means ;
selectable tempo setting means for selectively changing and setting a tempo of timing for a sequence of stored musical tones, the tempo defining a plurality of successive time instances, each respective successive time instance corresponding to a respective different time instance number;
~~address information storage means for storing, in conformance with a timing that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo setting means the storage address of the musical tone that is stored in the musical tone storage means~~ address information that defines a plurality of addresses corresponding to storage locations of the musical tones in the musical tone storage means, wherein each of said addresses is associated with a time instance number of the tempo set by the selectable tempo setting means; and
readout start means for readout of the musical tones stored in the musical tone storage means based on the address stored in the address storage means at a tempo set by the selectable tempo setting means.

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 5, further comprising saving means for saving, in units based on the storage address stored in the address information storage means, the musical tones stored in the musical tone storage means.

7. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 5, further comprising:

waveform display means for displaying waveforms of the musical tones input by the ~~previously mentioned~~ input means; and

timing display for displaying, at a position that corresponds to the timing that conforms to the tempo that has been set in the tempo setting means, the waveforms of the musical tones displayed by the waveform display means.

8. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument cited of Claim 5, wherein ~~the timing~~ each time instance that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo setting means is a beat.

9. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 5, wherein ~~the timing~~ each time instance that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo setting means is a bar.

10. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 5, further comprising reporting means for reporting the timing that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo setting means.

11. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 10, wherein the reporting means reads performance data and automatically performs in conformance with the tempo that is set by the tempo setting means.

12. (Original) The electronic musical instrument cited in Claim 3 further comprising a saving means for saving, in units based on the storage address acquired by the storage address acquisition means, the musical tones that are stored in the musical tone storage means.

13. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:

waveform display means for displaying waveforms of the musical tones input by the ~~previously mentioned~~ input means; and

timing display for displaying, at a position that corresponds to the timing that conforms to the tempo that has been set in the tempo setting means, the waveforms of the musical tones displayed by the waveform display means.

14. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument cited of Claim 1, wherein ~~the timing~~ each time instance that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo setting means is a beat.

15. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 1, wherein ~~the timing~~ each time instance that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo setting means is a bar.

16. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 1, further comprising reporting means for reporting the timing that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo setting means.

17. (Currently Amended) An electronic musical instrument comprising:
a tempo controller for recording a tempo defining a plurality of successive time instances, wherein each time instance is associated with a time instance number;
an input device for accepting a sequence of musical note data;
a storage device for storing the sequence of musical note data and for storing time information that defines a plurality of succeeding times after a starting time, wherein each of said times after the starting time is associated with a time instance number for timing musical note data stored in the storage device; and

a processor for writing the sequence of musical note data to the storage device, reading the sequence of musical note data from the storage device, and processing the sequence of musical note data,

wherein the processor processes the sequence of musical note data stored in the storage device at a timing consistent with the tempo recorded by the tempo controller.

18. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 17, wherein the processor correlates an address of the storage device containing the musical ~~noted~~ note data with the timing consistent with the tempo.

19. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 18, further comprising an adjuster for adjusting a time between a beginning of the sequence of musical note data and an end of the sequence of musical note data.

20. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 19, wherein the processor correlates an address of a beginning of an adjusted sequence of musical note data with the timing consistent with the tempo.

21. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 17, further comprising a tone generator for converting the sequence of musical note data into musical tones.

22. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 17, wherein ~~the timing consistent with~~ each time instance that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo setting means is a bar.

23. (Currently Amended) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 17, wherein ~~the timing consistent with~~ each time instance that corresponds to the tempo that has been set by the tempo setting means is a beat.

24. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 19, wherein the adjuster shortens the time between the beginning of the sequence of musical note data and the end of the sequence of musical note data.

25. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 19, wherein the adjuster lengthens the time between the beginning of the sequence of musical note data and the end of the sequence of musical note data.

26. (Original) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 17, wherein the input device is a keyboard.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a sequence of musical note data comprising:

~~recording a tempo;~~
accepting the sequence of musical note data;
~~storing the sequence of musical note data;~~
writing the sequence of musical note data to the storage device;
selecting and recording a selectable tempo of successive time instances for a sequence of stored musical tones, each time instance having a time instance number;
storing time information that defines a plurality of succeeding times after a starting time, wherein each of said times after the starting time is associated with a time instance number for the sequence of musical tone data stored in the storage device;
reading the sequence of musical note data from the storage device; and
processing the sequence of musical note data at a timing corresponding to the times associated with the time instance numbers,
wherein the sequence of musical note data stored in the storage device is processed at a timing consistent with the tempo.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein an address of the storage device containing the musical noted data is correlated with the timing consistent with the tempo.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 28, further comprising adjusting a time between a beginning of the sequence of musical note data and an end of the sequence of musical note data.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein an address of a beginning of an adjusted sequence of musical note data is correlated with the timing consistent with the tempo.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising converting the sequence of musical note data into musical tones.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein ~~wherein the timing consistent with~~ each time instance that corresponds to the tempo is a bar.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein ~~the timing consistent with~~ each time instance that corresponds to the tempo is a beat.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein the time between the beginning of the sequence of musical note data and the end of the sequence of musical note data is shortened.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein the time between the beginning of the sequence of musical note data and the end of the sequence of musical note data is lengthened.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the input device is a keyboard.

37. (Currently Amended) An electronic musical instrument comprising:
~~means for recording a tempo;~~
means for accepting the sequence of musical note data;
~~means for storing the sequence of musical note data;~~
means for writing the sequence of musical note data to the storage device;
means for selecting and recording a selectable tempo of successive time instances for a sequence of stored musical tones, each time instance having a time instance number;

means for storing time information that defines a plurality of succeeding times after a starting time, wherein each of said times after the starting time is associated with a time instance number for the sequence of musical tone data stored in the storage device;

means for reading the sequence of musical note data from the storage device; and

means for processing the sequence of musical note data at a timing corresponding to the times associated with the time instance numbers,

wherein the sequence of musical note data stored in the storage device is processed at a timing consistent with the tempo.

38. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 37, wherein tempo comprises a beat tempo, each of said time instances comprises a beat and said time instance numbers comprise beat numbers.

39. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 38, wherein the plurality of succeeding times after a starting time comprises a plurality of absolute times that are measured from a time at which power is applied to the electronic musical instrument.

40. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 37, wherein the selectable tempo comprises a selectable beat tempo, each of said time instances comprises a beat and said time instance numbers comprise beat numbers; and

wherein the means for processing processes the sequence of musical note data by processing musical note data for each beat at a timing consistent with the time associated with the beat number in the storage device.

41. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 37, wherein the selectable tempo comprises a selectable bar tempo, each of said time instances comprises a bar and said time instance numbers comprise bar numbers; and

wherein the means for processing processes the sequence of musical note data by processing musical note data for each bar at a timing consistent with the time associated with the bar number in the storage device.

42. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 1, wherein tempo comprises a beat tempo and wherein the time information storage means comprises storage means for storing data corresponding to a plurality of times and a corresponding plurality of beat numbers, wherein each respective one of the times is associated with a respective, corresponding beat number.

43. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 42, wherein the plurality of times comprises a plurality of absolute times that are measured from a time at which power is applied to the electronic musical instrument.

44. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 5, wherein tempo comprises a beat tempo and wherein the address information storage means comprises storage means for storing data corresponding to a plurality of addresses and a corresponding plurality of beat numbers, wherein each respective one of the addresses is associated with a respective, corresponding beat number.

45. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 17, wherein the selectable tempo comprises a selectable beat tempo and wherein the storage device further stores data corresponding to a plurality of times and a corresponding plurality of beat numbers, wherein each respective one of the times is associated with a respective, corresponding beat number; and wherein the processor processes the sequence of musical note data by processing musical note data for each beat at a timing consistent with the time associated with the beat number in the storage device.

46. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 17, wherein the selectable tempo comprises a selectable beat tempo and wherein the storage device further stores data corresponding to a plurality of addresses and a corresponding plurality of beat numbers, wherein each respective one of the addresses is associated with a respective, corresponding beat number; and

wherein processing the sequence of musical note data comprises, for each beat, processing musical note data at the address corresponding to a beat number associated with the beat.

47. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 27, wherein the selectable tempo comprises a selectable beat tempo and wherein the method further comprises storing data corresponding to a plurality of times and a corresponding plurality of beat numbers, wherein each respective one of the times is associated with a respective, corresponding beat number; and
wherein processing the sequence of musical note data comprises processing musical note data for each beat at a timing consistent with the time associated with the beat number in the storage device.

48. (New) The electronic musical instrument of Claim 27, wherein the selectable tempo comprises a selectable beat tempo and wherein the method further comprises storing data corresponding to a plurality of addresses and a corresponding plurality of beat numbers, wherein each respective one of the addresses is associated with a respective, corresponding beat number; and
wherein processing the sequence of musical note data comprises, for each beat, processing musical note data at the address corresponding to a beat number associated with the beat.